

DAVID Y. IGE
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LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
465 S. KING STREET, #103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

JAMES P. GRIFFIN
CHAIR

JENNIFER M. POTTER
COMMISSIONER

LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.
COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (808) 586-2020
Facsimile: (808) 586-2066

Website: puc.hawaii.gov
E-mail: puc@hawaii.gov

September 2, 2020

To: Service List

Re: Docket No. 2017-0122, In re: Hawaii Electric Light Co., Inc., Application for Approval of a Power Purchase Agreement for Renewable Dispatchable Firm Energy and Capacity

It has recently come to the Commission's attention that several of the public comments recently submitted in favor of Hu Honua's Project were not authorized by the email account holder. Specifically, on September 1, 2020, the Commission received seven emails clarifying that prior public comments filed in support of the Project that were attributed to their email accounts were not sent by the rightful account holder (see attached, email addresses and names redacted). These clarifying emails were received by the Commission after the Commission sent its standard message to the email addresses acknowledging receipt of the public comments.

The Commission is gravely concerned about this matter, as: (1) it impacts and risks violating the privacy of those who have had their email accounts used to file public comments they did not authorize; and (2) calls into question the credibility and legality of other public comments filed in this docket, which the Commission notes number in the thousands.

Consequently, in the interest of protecting the privacy of those whose emails may have been compromised, the Commission will redact from public view the public comments filed in this proceeding from September 1, 2020, going forward, unless or until such time that a reliable and practical means of verifying the authenticity of the public comments can be implemented. The redacted public comments will remain as part of the docket record, pending any further action the Commission deems appropriate in light of the privacy breaches and unauthorized use of email accounts noted above.

While the Commission regrets having to take this action, it believes it necessary under the circumstances, given the importance of protecting the privacy interests of those who may have had unauthorized public comments filed under their name and/or email address.

Sincerely,

Mark Kaetsu
Commission Counsel

MK:ljc

Enclosure

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PUC](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 3:47:17 PM

To whom it may concern,

Please be advised that my email was used without permission or authorization by someone attempting to utilize my email for their own personal agenda. Please disregard any email (see below) that was sent via my account as it was not from me. YOU DO NOT have my permission to use my name or my email address for any public or political use. I am not a Hawaii resident nor do I support your movement as I am completely unaware of it to start with. Thank you.

V/R

[REDACTED]

On Tuesday, September 1, 2020, 11:06:49 AM PDT, PUC <puc@hawaii.gov> wrote:

Thank you for contacting the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

This is to confirm that we received your comments regarding Hawaii Electric Light Company Inc.'s application for approval of a power purchase agreement with Hu Honua Bioenergy, LLC.

All public comments for this case are being posted to the docket on the PUC's Document Management System (<https://dms.puc.hawaii.gov/dms/>) website. To review what has been filed in this docket, click on the link and enter "2017-0122" into the "Docket Quick Link" field and press "GO." Note: The posting of comments may be delayed, as it depends on the volume of comments we receive.

Please contact us at 808-586-2020 or puc@hawaii.gov if you have any questions.

Thank you again,

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 11:04 PM
To: PUC <puc@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)

Dear Commissioners:

I am resident of Hawaii and a strong supporter of renewable energy and good-paying jobs. I strongly support the Honua Ola project. If the project is unable to move forward, many good-paying jobs will be at risk. Many of my family and friends are unemployed right now and are struggling to find quality employment. Please consider the thousands of people who need good-paying jobs now.

As you know, we are in one of the worst economic periods since the Great Depression. Unemployment is at historic highs and hundreds of thousands of workers are struggling to find jobs and make ends meet. Simply put, this is a difficult and challenging time with an uncertain and likely turbulent future ahead.

Honua Ola will provide that boost and will help diversify the economy and provide good-paying jobs to hundreds of workers on the island of Hawaii. To be clear, Honua Ola will not fix our economy by itself, but it is projects like Honua Ola that will move us in a positive direction both environmentally and economically.

Our State still relies too heavily on fossil-fuels that are harmful to our planet. Hawaii has a commendable clean energy goal to be 100 percent clean energy by the year 2045. To accomplish this goal, Hawaii needs a diverse clean energy portfolio. Honua Ola along with other projects will help Hawaii achieve its goal.

It would be a travesty to see a project that has spent hundreds of millions of dollars and is 99 percent complete only to be told their operation cannot move forward. More workers will be sent to the unemployment line and investors may reconsider investing in Hawaii. Our economy will be less diversified, and more workers will struggle to make ends meet.

We cannot allow that to happen. As such, I hope you reconsider the power purchase agreement. Good-paying jobs are in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Honua Ola Supporter

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PUC](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 1:42:31 PM

Commission Members,

I am writing to inform you that I did contact you regarding the Honua Ola project and I have no idea who would have sent this using my name. I am not a resident of Hawaii and have never heard of this project and have no opinion on it.

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: PUC <puc@hawaii.gov>
Date: Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 2:11 PM
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)
To: [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

This is to confirm that we received your comments regarding Hawaii Electric Light Company Inc.'s application for approval of a power purchase agreement with Hu Honua Bioenergy, LLC.

All public comments for this case are being posted to the docket on the PUC's Document Management System (<https://dms.puc.hawaii.gov/dms/>) website. To review what has been filed in this docket, click on the link and enter "2017-0122" into the "Docket Quick Link" field and press "GO." Note: The posting of comments may be delayed, as it depends on the volume of comments we receive.

Please contact us at 808-586-2020 or puc@hawaii.gov if you have any questions.

Thank you again,

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 11:24 PM
To: PUC <puc@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)

Dear Commissioners:

I am resident of Hawaii and a strong supporter of renewable energy and good-paying jobs. I strongly support the Honua Ola project. If the project is unable to move forward, many good-paying jobs will be at risk. Many of my family and friends are unemployed right now and are struggling to find quality employment. Please consider the thousands of people who need good-paying jobs now.

As you know, we are in one of the worst economic periods since the Great Depression. Unemployment is at historic highs and hundreds of thousands of workers are struggling to find jobs and make ends meet. Simply put, this is a difficult and challenging time with an uncertain and likely turbulent future ahead.

Honua Ola will provide that boost and will help diversify the economy and provide good-paying jobs to hundreds of workers on the island of Hawaii. To be clear, Honua Ola will not fix our economy by itself, but it is projects like Honua Ola that will move us in a positive direction both environmentally and economically.

Our State still relies too heavily on fossil-fuels that are harmful to our planet. Hawaii has a commendable clean energy goal to be 100 percent clean energy by the year 2045. To accomplish this goal, Hawaii needs a diverse clean energy portfolio. Honua Ola along with other projects will help Hawaii achieve its goal.

It would be a travesty to see a project that has spent hundreds of millions of dollars and is 99 percent complete only to be told their operation cannot move forward. More workers will be sent to the unemployment line and investors may reconsider investing in Hawaii. Our economy will be less diversified, and more workers will struggle to make ends meet.

We cannot allow that to happen. As such, I hope you reconsider the power purchase agreement. Good-paying jobs are in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Honua Ola Supporter

--



From: [REDACTED]
To: [PUC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 9:54:06 AM

I DID NOT SEND THIS EMAIL TO YOU.

~ “penned” on my smart-ish iPhone

On Sep 1, 2020, at 11:14 AM, PUC <puc@hawaii.gov> wrote:

Thank you for contacting the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

This is to confirm that we received your comments regarding Hawaii Electric Light Company Inc.’s application for approval of a power purchase agreement with Hu Honua Bioenergy, LLC.

All public comments for this case are being posted to the docket on the PUC’s Document Management System (<https://dms.puc.hawaii.gov/dms/>) website. To review what has been filed in this docket, click on the link and enter “2017-0122” into the “Docket Quick Link” field and press “GO.” Note: The posting of comments may be delayed, as it depends on the volume of comments we receive.

Please contact us at 808-586-2020 or puc@hawaii.gov if you have any questions.

Thank you again,

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 11:45 PM
To: PUC <puc@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)

Dear Commissioners:

I am resident of Hawaii and a strong supporter of renewable energy and good-paying jobs. I strongly support the Honua Ola project. If the project is unable to move forward, many good-paying jobs will be at risk. Many of my family and friends are unemployed right now and are struggling to find quality employment.

Please consider the thousands of people who need good-paying jobs now. As you know, we are in one of the worst economic periods since the Great Depression. Unemployment is at historic highs and hundreds of thousands of workers are struggling to find jobs and make ends meet. Simply put, this is a difficult and challenging time with an uncertain and likely turbulent future ahead. Honua Ola will provide that boost and will help diversify the economy and provide good-paying jobs to hundreds of workers on the island of Hawaii. To be clear, Honua Ola will not fix our economy by itself, but it is projects like Honua Ola that will move us in a positive direction both environmentally and economically. Our State still relies too heavily on fossil-fuels that are harmful to our planet. Hawaii has a commendable clean energy goal to be 100 percent clean energy by the year 2045. To accomplish this goal, Hawaii needs a diverse clean energy portfolio. Honua Ola along with other projects will help Hawaii achieve its goal. It would be a travesty to see a project that has spent hundreds of millions of dollars and is 99 percent complete only to be told their operation cannot move forward. More workers will be sent to the unemployment line and investors may reconsider investing in Hawaii. Our economy will be less diversified, and more workers will struggle to make ends meet. We cannot allow that to happen. As such, I hope you reconsider the power purchase agreement. Good-paying jobs are in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Honua Ola Supporter

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PUC](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (DocketNo. 2017-0122)
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 9:49:42 AM

To whom it may concern,

It looks like my email address was hacked to send in comments regarding the docket referenced below. I did not write or send the comments that your refer to. I am not a resident of Hawaii. I know nothing about this docket. Please do not include these comments, my name, or my contact information in any public records.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [PUC](#)
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 2:12 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (DocketNo. 2017-0122)

Thank you for contacting the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

This is to confirm that we received your comments regarding Hawaii Electric Light Company Inc.'s application for approval of a power purchase agreement with Hu Honua Bioenergy, LLC.

All public comments for this case are being posted to the docket on the PUC's Document Management System (<https://dms.puc.hawaii.gov/dms/>) website. To review what has been filed in this docket, click on the link and enter "2017-0122" into the "Docket Quick Link" field and press "GO." Note: The posting of comments may be delayed, as it depends on the volume of comments we receive.

Please contact us at 808-586-2020 or puc@hawaii.gov if you have any questions.

Thank you again,

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 11:35 PM
To: PUC <puc@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)

Dear Commissioners:

I am resident of Hawaii and a strong supporter of renewable energy and good-paying jobs. I strongly support the Honua Ola project. If the project is unable to move forward, many good-paying jobs will be at risk. Many of my family and friends are unemployed right now and are struggling to find quality employment. Please consider the thousands of people who need good-paying jobs now.

As you know, we are in one of the worst economic periods since the Great Depression. Unemployment is at historic highs and hundreds of thousands of workers are struggling to find jobs and make ends meet. Simply put, this is a difficult and challenging time with an uncertain and likely turbulent future ahead.

Honua Ola will provide that boost and will help diversify the economy and provide good-paying jobs to hundreds of workers on the island of Hawaii. To be clear, Honua Ola will not fix our economy by itself, but it is projects like Honua Ola that will move us in a positive direction both environmentally and economically.

Our State still relies too heavily on fossil-fuels that are harmful to our planet. Hawaii has a commendable clean energy goal to be 100 percent clean energy by the year 2045. To accomplish this goal, Hawaii needs a diverse clean energy portfolio. Honua Ola along with other projects will help Hawaii achieve its goal.

It would be a travesty to see a project that has spent hundreds of millions of dollars and is 99 percent complete only to be told their operation cannot move forward. More workers will be sent to the unemployment line and investors may reconsider investing in Hawaii. Our economy will be less diversified, and more workers will struggle to make ends meet. We cannot allow that to happen. As such, I hope you reconsider the power purchase agreement. Good-paying jobs are in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Honua Ola Supporter

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PUC](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 8:42:33 AM

To whom it may concern:

I did NOT post or send any comment regarding this matter prior to this singular email. It would appear that someone fraudulently used or otherwise "spoofed" my email address. While I am a strong supporter of renewable energy, I am NOT a resident of Hawaii and thus have no say in this matter. Please remove any comment that has the email address of "[REDACTED]" - as previously stated I am not a resident of Hawaii, and thus have no say in this matter.

On Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 1:15 PM PUC <puc@hawaii.gov> wrote:

Thank you for contacting the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

This is to confirm that we received your comments regarding Hawaii Electric Light Company Inc.'s application for approval of a power purchase agreement with Hu Honua Bioenergy, LLC.

All public comments for this case are being posted to the docket on the PUC's Document Management System (<https://dms.puc.hawaii.gov/dms/>) website. To review what has been filed in this docket, click on the link and enter "2017-0122" into the "Docket Quick Link" field and press "GO." Note: The posting of comments may be delayed, as it depends on the volume of comments we receive.

Please contact us at 808-586-2020 or puc@hawaii.gov if you have any questions.

Thank you again,

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 11:46 PM
To: PUC <puc@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)

Dear Commissioners:

I am resident of Hawaii and a strong supporter of renewable energy and good-paying jobs. I strongly support the Honua Ola project. If the project is unable to move forward, many good-paying jobs will be at risk. Many of my family and friends are unemployed right now and are struggling to find quality employment. Please consider the thousands of people who need good-paying jobs now.

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We cannot allow that to happen. As such, I hope you reconsider the power purchase agreement. Good-paying jobs are in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Honua Ola Supporter

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PUC](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 8:18:57 AM

I just wanted to reply and confirm that I did not contact your organization, there must be a mistake or a mix-up of email address.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

On Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 1:15 PM PUC <puc@hawaii.gov> wrote:

Thank you for contacting the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

This is to confirm that we received your comments regarding Hawaii Electric Light Company Inc.'s application for approval of a power purchase agreement with Hu Honua Bioenergy, LLC.

All public comments for this case are being posted to the docket on the PUC's Document Management System (<https://dms.puc.hawaii.gov/dms/>) website. To review what has been filed in this docket, click on the link and enter "2017-0122" into the "Docket Quick Link" field and press "GO." Note: The posting of comments may be delayed, as it depends on the volume of comments we receive.

Please contact us at 808-586-2020 or puc@hawaii.gov if you have any questions.

Thank you again,

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 11:46 PM

To: PUC <puc@hawaii.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)

Dear Commissioners:

I am resident of Hawaii and a strong supporter of renewable energy and good-paying jobs. I strongly support the Honua Ola project. If the project is unable to move forward, many good-paying jobs will be at risk. Many of my family and friends are unemployed right now and are struggling to find quality employment. Please consider the thousands of people who need good-paying jobs now.

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We cannot allow that to happen. As such, I hope you reconsider the power purchase agreement. Good-paying jobs are in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Honua Ola Supporter

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PUC](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 8:07:02 AM

Hello,

Someone has used my email to contact you. I am NOT A RESIDENT and DID NOT EMAIL THIS.

[REDACTED]

On Sep 1, 2020, at 2:04 PM, PUC <puc@hawaii.gov> wrote:

Thank you for contacting the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

This is to confirm that we received your comments regarding Hawaii Electric Light Company Inc.'s application for approval of a power purchase agreement with Hu Honua Bioenergy, LLC.

All public comments for this case are being posted to the docket on the PUC's Document Management System (<https://dms.puc.hawaii.gov/dms/>) website. To review what has been filed in this docket, click on the link and enter "2017-0122" into the "Docket Quick Link" field and press "GO." Note: The posting of comments may be delayed, as it depends on the volume of comments we receive.

Please contact us at 808-586-2020 or puc@hawaii.gov if you have any questions.

Thank you again,

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 10:59 PM
To: PUC <puc@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Honua Ola and Good-Paying Jobs (Docket No. 2017-0122)

Dear Commissioners:

I am resident of Hawaii and a strong supporter of renewable energy and good-paying jobs. I strongly support the Honua Ola project. If the project is unable to

move forward, many good-paying jobs will be at risk. Many of my family and friends are unemployed right now and are struggling to find quality employment. Please consider the thousands of people who need good-paying jobs now. As you know, we are in one of the worst economic periods since the Great Depression. Unemployment is at historic highs and hundreds of thousands of workers are struggling to find jobs and make ends meet. Simply put, this is a difficult and challenging time with an uncertain and likely turbulent future ahead. Honua Ola will provide that boost and will help diversify the economy and provide good-paying jobs to hundreds of workers on the island of Hawaii. To be clear, Honua Ola will not fix our economy by itself, but it is projects like Honua Ola that will move us in a positive direction both environmentally and economically. Our State still relies too heavily on fossil-fuels that are harmful to our planet. Hawaii has a commendable clean energy goal to be 100 percent clean energy by the year 2045. To accomplish this goal, Hawaii needs a diverse clean energy portfolio. Honua Ola along with other projects will help Hawaii achieve its goal. It would be a travesty to see a project that has spent hundreds of millions of dollars and is 99 percent complete only to be told their operation cannot move forward. More workers will be sent to the unemployment line and investors may reconsider investing in Hawaii. Our economy will be less diversified, and more workers will struggle to make ends meet. We cannot allow that to happen. As such, I hope you reconsider the power purchase agreement. Good-paying jobs are in jeopardy.

Sincerely,
Honua Ola Supporter

FILED

2020 Sep 02 AM 09:57

PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

The foregoing document was electronically filed with the State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission's Document Management System (DMS).